

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)
TB Drug Assistance Program**

Background

During the 2004 General Assembly session \$50,000 was appropriated to purchase medications for individuals who have tuberculosis but who do not qualify for free or reduced prescription drugs and who do not have adequate income or insurance coverage to purchase the required prescription drugs. The funds cannot be used to offset the local health district (LHD) share of costs for medications.

In 2004, an internal procedure and algorithm was developed and distributed to all local districts. While every case that met case criteria and eligibility requirements was approved for the program, very few invoices were submitted for payment due to the complexity of the program and process.

In an effort to increase participation in the program, the following revised procedures have been established.

Reimbursement Procedure

1. Both confirmed and suspect cases are eligible to participate in the program.
2. All patients enrolled in the TB drug program must participate in directly observed therapy (DOT) and be case managed by the LHD regardless of the source of medical care.
3. The LHD completes the VDH financial eligibility process and makes a determination that the patient qualifies for assistance. No further prior approval is required for participation in the program.
4. LHD case managers maintain documentation that demonstrates patient eligibility for the TB Drug Assistance Program (i.e. VDH financial eligibility and culture reports, x-ray reports or other documentation supporting the diagnosis of suspected or confirmed active tuberculosis)
5. Agency transfer vouchers (ATVs) (or invoices from independent districts) for reimbursement are submitted to DDP-TB Control monthly along with Webvision printouts for each individual patient detailing the drugs provided and the charges. Fax documentation to Ms. Kim Hammond's attention at 804-371-0248.
6. Requests for assistance with patient co-pays for those with private insurance will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Requests may be made to Dr. Peg Tipple or Ms. Jane Moore at 804-864-7906 (phone) or 804-371-0248 (fax).